

REMARKS

Claims 8-14 are all the claims pending in the application. By this Amendment, Applicant cancels claims 8 and 12-14 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant also amends claims 9-11 to further clarify the invention.

I. Preliminary Matter

As a preliminary matter, Applicant thanks the Examiner to indicate acceptance of the drawing figures filed on June 23, 2004.

II. Summary of the Office Action

The Examiner withdrew the previous grounds of rejection. The Examiner, however, found new grounds for rejecting the claims. Specifically, claim 9 is rejected as being substantially a duplicate of claim 8 and claims 8-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

III. Double Patenting Rejection

Claim 9 is objected to as being a substantial duplicate of claim 8. Claim 8 has been cancelled, rendering this rejection moot.

IV. Prior Art Rejection

Claims 8-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 10-079843 to Takahito (hereinafter "Takahito") in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,909,515 to Evansen (hereinafter "Evansen"). Applicant respectfully traverses these grounds of rejection at least in view of the following exemplary comments.

Claim 8 has been cancelled, rendering this rejection moot.

Of the remaining rejected claims, only claim 9 is independent. Independent claim 9 *inter alia* and in some variation recites: “determining whether or not the whole image data corresponding to the area that has been determined can be stored, in terms of size, in said memory area based on a result of said area determination; and if it is determined that the whole image data can be stored in terms of size, storing data that has been re-read for the image in the original, which is limited to the area only, in said memory area, and performing printing up to the preset number of sheets from a second sheet based on the image data in said memory area, if it is determined that the whole image data cannot be stored in terms of size, performing a reading operation of the original, every time printing is performed, and performing printing up to the preset number of sheets from the second sheet, using image data from the reading operation.”

In an exemplary, non-limiting embodiment of the present invention, it is disclosed that an area in which the print image exists in the original is determined. Then, the determined area (which has the whole image) is evaluated to determine whether it can be stored in memory. That is, it is determined whether or not the whole image is too big to be stored in memory. Based on this size determination, different printing processes are performed. It will be appreciated that the foregoing remarks relate to the invention in a general sense, the remarks are not necessarily limitative of any claims and are intended only to help the Examiner better understand the distinguishing aspects of the claim mentioned above.

The Examiner acknowledges that Takahiro does not disclose or suggest the determining as set forth in claim 9. The Examiner, however, alleges that Evansen cures the above-identified deficiencies of Takahiro (*see* pages 3-4 of the Office Action). Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Evansen discloses a facsimile system for reproducing a picture having a multiplicity of lines typically including dense areas of a first type of data bounded by significant areas of a second type of data. In Evansen, a receiver is connected to the channel and includes a memory for storing the transmitted data between memory addresses corresponding to the transmitted addresses so that a second stream of data similar to the first stream of data is constructed in the second memory. A printer is responsive to the second stream of data in the memory to reproduce a line of the picture (*see* Abstract).

Specifically, Evansen discloses that the receiver can respond to the receipt of the burst signal by storing the first black address of the first area and the following last black address of the first area. A memory in the receiver can be appropriately clocked to receive the following dense data between these addresses. Similarly, the data in the second and subsequent dense data area, if any, can be loaded into memory between the associated first and last black addresses. The memory can also be loaded with 0's between the dense data areas so that the memory is reconstructed to correspond to the positional and graphic information in the scan line. In Evansen, from the memory constructed in this manner, a single line of the reproduced picture can be printed (col. 2, lines 23 to 36).

Evansen, however, does not disclose or suggest determining whether or not the whole image data (corresponding to the determined area) can be stored, in terms of size in the memory area. In other words, Evansen does not contemplate that the whole image data is too big in size to be stored in memory and as result, no such determination is performed. Furthermore, since this determining is not performed, changing the printing process according to whether or not the

whole image data can be stored in the memory is also not performed. That is, there is no disclosure or suggesting of various printing processes based on this determination. Furthermore, Evansen does not disclose or suggest performing an area determination and performing printing on a first sheet, based on the (first) image data, and performing printing on a second sheet onwards, based on the (second) image data, which is limited to the area only stored in the memory area. In short, Evansen does not cure the above-identified deficiencies of Takahito.

For at least these exemplary reasons, claim 9 is patentable over the prior art of record. Claims 10 and 11 are patentable by virtue of their dependency.

V. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

/Nataliya Dvorson/
Nataliya Dvorson
Registration No. 56,616

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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